

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

BIG LOTS, INC.,¹

Debtors.

)
) Chapter 11
)
) Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)
)
) (Joint Administration Requested)
) **Re: D.I. 4**

**ORDER AUTHORIZING RETENTION AND APPOINTMENT OF
KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION LLC
AS CLAIMS AND NOTICING AGENT**

Upon the application (the “**Application**”) of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “**Debtors**”) for retention and appointment of Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC (“**Kroll**”) as claims and noticing agent (“**Claims and Noticing Agent**”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c), section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code² and Local Rule 2002-1(f) to, among other things, (i) distribute required notices to parties in interest, (ii) receive, maintain, docket and otherwise administer the proofs of claim filed in the Debtors’ chapter 11 cases and (iii) provide such other administrative services – as required by the Debtors – that would fall within the purview of services to be provided by the Clerk’s office; and upon the Steele Declaration submitted in support of the Application; and the Debtors having estimated that there are in excess of 10,000 creditors in these chapter 11 cases, many of which are expected to file proofs of claim; and it appearing that the receiving, docketing and maintaining of proofs of

¹ The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors’ corporate headquarters is 4900 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Application.

claim would be unduly time consuming and burdensome for the Clerk; and the Court being authorized under 28 U.S.C. § 156(c) to utilize, at the Debtors' expense, outside agents and facilities to provide notices to parties in title 11 cases and to receive, docket, maintain, photocopy and transmit proofs of claim; and the Court being satisfied that Kroll has the capability and experience to provide such services and that Kroll does not hold an interest adverse to the Debtors or the estates respecting the matters upon which it is to be engaged; and good and sufficient notice of the Application having been given and no other or further notice being required; and it appearing that the employment of Kroll is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates and creditors; and sufficient cause appearing therefor;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Notwithstanding the terms of the Engagement Agreement attached to the Application, the Application is approved solely as set forth in this Order.
2. The Debtors are authorized to retain Kroll as Claims and Noticing Agent effective *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date under the terms of the Engagement Agreement, and Kroll is authorized and directed to perform noticing services and to receive, maintain, record and otherwise administer the proofs of claim filed in these chapter 11 cases, and all related tasks, all as described in the Application.
3. Kroll shall serve as the custodian of court records and shall be designated as the authorized repository for all proofs of claim filed in these chapter 11 cases and is authorized and directed to maintain official claims registers for each of the Debtors, to provide public access to every proof of claim unless otherwise ordered by the Court and to provide the Clerk with a certified duplicate thereof upon the request of the Clerk.

4. Kroll is authorized and directed to provide an electronic interface for filing proofs of claim and to obtain a post office box or address for the receipt of proofs of claim.

5. Kroll is authorized to take such other action to comply with all duties set forth in the Application.

6. The Debtors are authorized to compensate Kroll in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Agreement upon the receipt of reasonably detailed invoices setting forth the services provided by Kroll and the rates charged for each, and to reimburse Kroll for all reasonable and necessary expenses it may incur, upon the presentation of appropriate documentation, without the need for Kroll to file fee applications or otherwise seek Court approval for the compensation of its services and reimbursement of its expenses.

7. Kroll shall maintain records of all services showing dates, categories of services, fees charged and expenses incurred, and shall serve monthly invoices on the Debtors, counsel for the Debtors, the office of the United States Trustee, counsel for any official committee monitoring the expenses of the Debtors, and any party-in-interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices.

8. The parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve any dispute which may arise relating to the Engagement Agreement or monthly invoices; provided that the parties may seek resolution of the matter from the Court if resolution is not achieved.

9. Pursuant to section 503(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, the fees and expenses of Kroll under this Order shall be an administrative expense of the Debtors' estates.

10. Kroll may apply its advance to all prepetition invoices, which advance shall be replenished to the original advance amount, and thereafter, Kroll may hold its advance under the

Engagement Agreement during the chapter 11 cases as security for the payment of fees and expenses incurred under the Engagement Agreement.

11. The Debtors shall indemnify Kroll under the terms of the Engagement Agreement, as modified pursuant to this Order.

12. Kroll shall not be entitled to indemnification, contribution or reimbursement pursuant to the Engagement Agreement for services other than the services provided under the Engagement Agreement, unless such services and the indemnification, contribution or reimbursement therefor are approved by the Court.

13. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Engagement Agreement, the Debtors shall have no obligation to indemnify Kroll, or provide contribution or reimbursement to Kroll, for any claim or expense that is either: (i) judicially determined (the determination having become final) to have arisen from Kroll's gross negligence, willful misconduct or fraud; (ii) for a contractual dispute in which the Debtors allege the breach of Kroll's contractual obligations if the Court determines that indemnification, contribution or reimbursement would not be permissible pursuant to *In re United Artists Theatre Co.*, 315 F.3d 217 (3d Cir. 2003); or (iii) settled prior to a judicial determination under (i) or (ii), but determined by this Court, after notice and a hearing, to be a claim or expense for which Kroll should not receive indemnity, contribution or reimbursement under the terms of the Engagement Agreement as modified by this Order.

14. If, before the earlier of (i) the entry of an order confirming a chapter 11 plan in these chapter 11 cases (that order having become a final order no longer subject to appeal), or (ii) the entry of an order closing these chapter 11 cases, Kroll believes that it is entitled to the payment of any amounts by the Debtors on account of the Debtors' indemnification, contribution

and/or reimbursement obligations under the Engagement Agreement (as modified by this Order), including the advancement of defense costs, Kroll must file an application therefor in this Court, and the Debtors may not pay any such amounts to Kroll before the entry of an order by this Court approving the payment. This paragraph is intended only to specify the period of time under which the Court shall have jurisdiction over any request for fees and expenses by Kroll for indemnification, contribution or reimbursement, and not a provision limiting the duration of the Debtors' obligation to indemnify Kroll. All parties in interest shall retain the right to object to any demand by Kroll for indemnification, contribution or reimbursement.

15. The limitation of liability section in paragraph 10 of the Engagement Agreement is deemed to be of no force or effect with respect to the services to be provided pursuant to this Order.

16. In the event Kroll is unable to provide the services set out in this order, Kroll will immediately notify the Clerk and the Debtors' attorney and, upon approval of the Court, cause to have all original proofs of claim and computer information turned over to another claims and noticing agent with the advice and consent of the Clerk and the Debtors' attorney.

17. The Debtors may submit a separate retention application, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 327 and/or any applicable law, for work that is to be performed by Kroll but is not specifically authorized by this Order.

18. The Debtors and Kroll are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Application.

19. Notwithstanding any term in the Engagement Agreement to the contrary, the Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

20. Notwithstanding any provision in the Bankruptcy Rules to the contrary, this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

21. Kroll shall not cease providing claims processing services during the chapter 11 case(s) for any reason, including nonpayment, without an order of the Court.

22. In the event of any inconsistency between the Engagement Agreement, the Application and the Order, the Order shall govern.

Dated: September 10th, 2024
Wilmington, Delaware


J. KATE STICKLES
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE